(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Defence, in December, 2006, has given full powers within the budget provisions to Ordnance Factory Board for sanction of expenditure for applied R and D for carrying out product and process improvement and development of new products. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has also been involving a large number of Industrial Partners in various developmental projects.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Further signing of an 'Integrity Pact' would be considered between government department and the bidder for schemes exceeding Rs. 100 crore as per Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP)-2008. The Integrity Pact is a binding agreement between the agency and bidders for specific contracts.

(e) Does not arise.

Same pay scale and Rank pay for military nurses

1740. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sixth Central Pay Commission (CPC) had recommended for same pay scale and Rank pay for military nurses with rest of army;

(b) whether Government has received any memorandum against this recommendation;

(c) if so, what is Government's view on it; and

(d) when Government is planning to implement the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The Sixth Central Pay Commission had recommended that the pay band and grade pay of similarly designated posts in Service Officers cadre and Military Nursing Service (MNS) cadre should be the same but the rates of Military Service Pay be lower for MNS.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Government has decided to enhance the grade pay of middle level officers (excluding MNS) of the Services.

Purchase of substandard bullet-proof vehicle

1741. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether army purchased 200 substandard bullet-proof vehicles and provided the same to commanders carrying out counter-terrorism operations in Jammu and Kashmir and North-East endangering their lives;

(b) whether Northern and Eastern Commands and C and AG have found that the bullet-proof vehicles bought by the army were having several problems/defects in their functioning; and